

Elk Valley Rancheria, California



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October 30, 2009

Northcoast Science Advisory Team
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/O California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814

BY HAND

**Re: Position of Elk Valley Rancheria, California on indigenous knowledge in the
MLPA science process**

Dear Science Committee Members:

Elk Valley Rancheria, California ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Tribe in Del Norte County. Since time immemorial the Tribe has managed its coastal, estuarine, riverine and marine resources in a manner that is sustainable; is concerned with the health of entire ecosystems rather than individual components; and has been highly successful over several millennia. The Tribe believes that the Scientific Advisory Team must examine and consider indigenous knowledge of and approaches to, ecosystems management and stewardship as part of its discourse. Further, that knowledge should be recognized and incorporated into the Science Advisory Team's guidelines.

The Tribe maintains that indigenous people have a unique insight into the ecosystems that we have maintained, and enjoyed a relationship with, unbroken over millennia. Indeed, the Tribe considers that, given our unbroken stewardship of the environment throughout the Northcoast, indigenous people are an integral part of our coastal, estuarine, riverine and marine ecosystems and are vital to the health of those systems. As such, protection of those ecosystems must recognize and include the protection of indigenous people and our stewardship practices.

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RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

Sincerely,

Dale A. Miller
Chairman

